

Message Text

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21

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 H-02 SCA-01 L-02 EB-07 /023 R

DRAFTED BY SCA:SCS:JALIVORNESE:GJL

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R 312115Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

UNCLAS STATE 023083

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:CPRS, CO

SUBJECT:AMERICAN PROPERTY: US FLAG VESSEL "MIL MAR I"

REF: DEPT OM 1/16/75 TO EMBASSY

1. FRANZ H. ROSS, ACCOMPANIED BY BRIAN KEHOE, ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE TO CONGRESSMAN CASEY, YESTERDAY CALLED UPON THE ADMINISTRATOR OF SCA AND INFORMED HIM THAT THE COLOMBIAN COURTS HAD RECENTLY LIFTED THE EMBARGO AGAINST THE MIL MAR I. HOWEVER, "BECAUSE OF CERTAIN LEGAL TECHNICALITIES" THE VESSEL HAD AS YET NOT BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE AMERICAN OWNER.

2. MR. ROSS, LAST EVENING TELEPHONED COLOMBIAN ATTY RAFAEL RIVAS POSADA, WHO REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN IN CLOSE AND CONTINUOUS TOUCH WITH THE EMBASSY (CONSUL ARENZ), REPORTING THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. FURTHERMORE, ATTORNEY RIVAS POSADA STATED THAT THE VESSEL WAS MISSING, I.E., NOT PRESENTLY IN COLOMBIA AND THAT NEITHER SR. PETER GROSSICH NOR SR. CASTRO, THE LEGALLY-APPOINTED CUSTODIAN OF THE VESSEL, WAS TO BE FOUND IN THE COUNTRY.

3. THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO CABLE THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE LATEST KNOWN DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS MATTER, PARTICULARLY WHETHER IT HAS ANY KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE WHERE-
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ABOUTS OF THE VESSEL AND WHAT OBSTACLES THERE MAY BE WITH

REGARD TO ITS RETURN TO THE AMERICAN OWNERS.

4. THE DEPARTMENT WOULD VERY MUCH BE INTERESTED IN
KNOWING IF THE COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE AS YET REPLIED
TO THE FORMAL NOTE OF PROTEST THAT WAS SUBMITTED BY THE
EMBASSY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON JUNE 24, 1974. KISSINGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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